

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 EUR-12 NIC-01 /082 W

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R 081218Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 765

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, KS

SUBJ: BELATED GROK INVITATION TO MOBUTU ANGERS GOZ

REF: KINSHASA 10244

1. ACCORDING TO ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR HUH, ROK AMBASSADOR LIMB CALLED AT DEPTFONAFF JANUARY 3 AND PRESENTED DIRECTOR GENERAL BOLELA WITH OFFICIAL INVITATION FOR PRESIDENT MOBUTU TO PAY FORMAL VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA AT ANY TIME AFTER JANUARY 20 CONVENIENT TO HIM. GIST OF INVITATION HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO GOZ PRIOR TO MOBUTU'S DECEMBER 5 DEPARTURE FOR RECENTLY CONCLUDED TRIP TO NORTH KOREA, CHINA AND INDIA, BUT AMBASSADOR LIMB THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO CONVEY FORMAL INVITATION TO DEPTFONAFF WHEN IT ARRIVED. BOLELA RECEIVED LIMB WELL AND THEY AMICABLY DISCUSSED RECENT KOREAN VOTES IN UNGA ON WHICH ZAIRE HAD ABSTAINED, AS IT HAS PROMISED IT WOULD.

2. ON LEAVING BOLELA'S OFFICE LIMB WAS APPARENTLY UNWARY ENOUGH TO TELL A REPORTER PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT. ALTHOUGH STORY WAS NOT PUBLISHED, IT WAS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSING TO GOZ WHICH HAS NEVER EXPLAINED TO ZAIRIAN PUBLIC WHY SEOUL WAS QUIETLY DROPPED FROM MOBUTU'S

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ANNOUNCED FAR EASTERN ITINERARY AT LAST MINUTE.

3. FONMIN UMBA TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR LIMB AROUND 1900 SAME DAY AND IN VOICE SHAKING WITH ANGER INFORMED HIM HE WAS PNG'D AND HAD 24 HOURS TO LEAVE ZAIRE. FORTY MINUTES LATER A COUNSELOR IN DEPTFONAFF TELEPHONED LIMB TO SAY THAT UMBA HAD INFORMED MOBUTU OF HIS ACTION AND THAT MOBUTU HAD DECIDED IT WAS TOO STRONG. CONSEQUENTLY, LIMB COULD CONSIDER THE PNG ORDER WITHDRAWN. INCIDENT SURFACED IN OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY (AZAP) ON JANUARY 6, AZAP SAID DEPTFONAFF HAD PROTESTED TO ROK EMBASSY ON JANUARY 3 FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATEMENT MADE BY AMBASSADOR LIMB "CONTRARY TO DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE." AZAP COMMENTED THAT LIMB'S ACT WAS NOT LIKELY TO FOSTER GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SEOUL AND KINSHASA.

4. LIMB ATTENDED MOBUTU'S JANUARY 4 SPEECH ALONG WITH REST OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND FOUND BOLELA AS AMICABLE AS

EVER. ROK EMBASSY WONDERS, HOWEVER, WHETHER ITS DAYS ARE NOW NUMBERED. AMBASSADOR LIMB IS RETURNING TO SEOUL NEXT WEEK TO ATTEND CONFERENCE OF AMBASSADORS STATIONED IN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST. PLANS TO BE ABSENT FROM KINSHASA SEVERAL WEEKS.

5. COMMENT: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT LIMB'S PREDECESSOR WAS PNG'D IN 1973 BECAUSE OF AN INCAUTIOUS INTERVIEW HE GRANTED TO AN AZAP REPORTER. HOWEVER, WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK GOZ WILL ALLOW THIS INCIDENT TO BLOW OVER. HINTON

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